

Spotlight On



Rear Adm. (ret.) Hank Molinengo

Since 2009, Hank Molinengo has worked as the Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs with The George Washington University Law School. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations involving planning, budget, facilities, academic integrity, communications, alumni, IT, and career development.

"I'm responsible for all non-academic programs at the law school, either as a supervisor or in providing services for them," said Molinengo.

At the time of his retirement, he was the assistant judge advocate general (AJAG) of the Navy for operations and management. Among other things, he supervised operations at the Naval Justice School and executed recruiting, retention, work-life balance, and other initiatives for the Navy JAG Corps.

"As the AJAG, I was able to help a lot of people. I tried to help Sailors and judge advocates, and I tried to make the JAG Corps better," said Molinengo.

The best part of his current job is a continuation of what he found in the JAG Corps -- a focus on and the ability to mentor those just starting a law career.

As he tells his students now, it takes more than just

academics to become a successful judge advocate. Motivation is a strong factor.

"I wanted to serve my country. I wanted to do something more with my life than try to get a job at a law firm," said Molinengo. "I was not a good law student. I was 94th out of 165 at Catholic University with a C+ average. I was lucky enough to be accepted."

While in the JAG Corps, Molinengo knew that monetary issues could prevent law school students from seeking out the JAG Corps. One of his proudest accomplishments was when he worked on JAG Corps continuation pay in September 1999. This allowed judge advocates to pay off some of the debt they incurred during law school.

Molinengo was born in Washington, D.C., and graduated from St. John's College High School in 1974. He commissioned in the U.S. Navy under the JAG Corps Student Program in 1980. A graduate of both Catholic University and Catholic University Law School, he was awarded an LL.M. in Military Law (subspecialty Criminal Law) from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in 1992.

with professors Tony Devicco and Tom McMahon, both retired Navy JAG Corps captains.

Hayes had many rewarding experiences in the JAG Corps, but his tour during Desert Shield/Desert Storm at Cruiser-Destroyer Group Eight was one of the most rewarding.

"The legal work involved every aspect of the JAG Corps practice plus I had over 40 ships and 10 squadrons in my legal portfolio. I still get together with the guys from that staff every three months rain or shine," said Hayes.

Hayes continues to mentor active-duty judge advocates. "I believe your obligation to lead and mentor never goes away," said Hayes. "I have kept in contact with many people, and it's not unusual to get a call out of the blue from someone seeking advice or just to talk through a legal issue or personal matter. I have always left an open door for everyone and am happy to help anyway I can."

His advice for junior JAG Corps officers? "Jump in with both feet and take advantage of every opportunity and adventure. Don't play it safe as there always enough time to do the 'safe' things later."

Hayes was born into a Navy family and calls Worcester, Mass., his hometown. He earned his law degree from Suffolk University Law School, and his LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center.



Capt. (ret.) David Hayes



David Hayes retired in 2010 and currently works as department counsel for the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals (DOHA), the largest component of the Defense Legal Services Agency.

At DOHA, Hayes gets involved with the litigation and documentation for all phases of the security clearance review process when a military

member or contractor has possible security concerns that may affect his or her clearance.

"My more than 26 years of experience provided excellent background to effectively address day-to-day issues on my desk. Litigation, knowledge of the military and other federal agencies, people skills, and the requisite security clearances are very beneficial to my position," said Hayes.

Hayes joined the JAG Corps in 1984 while at Suffolk University Law School. He met two classmates, Marc Laverdiere and Orlando Ruiz-Roque, who were already commissioned. They "were tremendous influences" along